

Sir Philip Gibbs Sees New War by Russia if Another Famine Comes

Wise Counsels Prevail With France, but Danger Is Seen in East.

SOVIET COME TO STAY

Even Young Aristocrats Support It Because It Holds Country Together.

NEED INTERNATIONAL AID

Moscow's Delegates Might Be Forced to Accept Conditions for Credits.

By Sir Philip Gibbs.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD.
LONDON, June 3.—The most notable event of the week in regard to European settlements was a clear indication from France that it was ready to drop the threat of immediate invasion of Germany should that country default on indemnities. It has taken a long time to persuade the French Government that seizure of the German industrial cities would create a new chaos and more imminent dangers in Europe. What has finally persuaded them is not only Lloyd George's straight talks at Genoa, but the direct message to the Conservative party, through Bonar Law as its mouthpiece, that France's warmest friend, England, would not support her if she put new military pressure on Germany to extract indemnities beyond the German means to pay. Besides a warning it was like an electric shock to Poincaré's administration.

It made them realize sharply that if they gave orders for a march into the Ruhr after May 31 it would isolate France from Britain. That thought of isolation, though often envisaged by the French press, became intolerable when shown as the inevitable result of the present policy. Wise counsels prevailed that the enormous importance of British friendship to France is not to be risked at a time when the German-Russian alliance raises a new bogey in the French imagination. It is possible that a loan will be made to Germany on her industrial securities under secret guarantees if she checks the use of the printing press for paper money, stabilizes the mark, balances her budget by more drastic taxation.

Struggle Only Postponed.
This will be a compromise, postponing struggles that cannot be averted more than a few years. I do not mean necessarily a military struggle, though Europe is still a powder magazine, but a tremendous struggle that one day must be decided between the ideals of European unity based on a real permanent pact and the old international balance of power, in which groups of nations face other groups with such equal strength of arms that they hesitate to violate each other's rights.

Lloyd George has usual dramatic instinct touched for a moment with the searchlight of his vision Europe's darkest problem. "Will a hungry Russia," he asked, "sit quietly while its children are dying? That is not the experience of the past." He meant the experience of past history outside of Russia, as, for instance, when Napoleon broke the blockade of France and led his hungry legions to loot many cities, ravage many countries, overthrow many thrones.

Lloyd George has not thought to Russia, to speak only through the gift of imagination and knowledge of human nature. I have been to Russia and seen its ruin and agony; I support his view by saying I cannot imagine those hundred and fifty million people sitting down quietly to die as so many are now doing in spite of worldwide efforts of charity on behalf of the children. God knows if there will be another drought this year. If that were to happen, as it is prophesied, there will be famine from one end of Russia to another, and those people would get on the move as sure as hungry locusts gather over harvest fields in search of food. Any kind of world is preferable to such lingering death, and Trotsky could rally up his ill fed legions for any desperate adventure.

Fears Russian Warfare.
There are some who hope and think Tchitcherine's failure to obtain loans or credits from the pacifist elements at the Genoa conference will overthrow the Bolshevik Government. I am not one who thinks so. I did meet a single man or woman in Russia, including those of the old regime, who believed the Bolsheviks were menaced by internal revolution. The time is gone past for that. Even the young aristocrats are serving as Red officers or Soviet officials, first for a means of life, but, secondly, because they are willing to support any government which holds Russia together and prevents further anarchy.

The future's hardening spirit among the Russian leaders will defeat the moderate pacifist element. That will assuredly happen if the Hague conference does not lead to more definite results for Russia than Genoa. In that case I am convinced that Lenin and Trotsky, the inner council of Soviet wire pullers, will conspire for a world war as one means of escape for the Russian people. It will be a conspiracy with German militarists by which I do not mean the German people—who would accept aid from the devil himself for the joy of vengeance.

I have enormous pity for the Russian people. They are as good a people as any one; they are brave, patient, kindly, simple folk. They are just victims of a tragic fate beyond their power to alter or control. They are peasants who love their land, their women folk and children and desire

if she decided to invade the German industrial cities—a grim alternative.

But now France, held up by the threat from Germany (at least the present German Government), is willing to come into some cooperative scheme for Russian reconstruction. Here is the way that might be taken, as it should have been taken before. The Soviet delegates could be faced at The Hague, as elsewhere, with a united front, including Germany, and in return for credits would have to accept conditions which they now evade. France, which opposed a discussion of Red army demobilization offered by Tchitcherine because it opened general discussion, which might weaken the French strength in armed force, could be persuaded to support that condition now she has drawn closer to Great Britain to avoid isolation.

With backing from the United States this scheme could still go through as a good business policy. It would save the Russian people, for the Bolshevik Government would come into line with the ordinary code of international honor. It would also break the sinister meaning of that German treaty of Rapallo, by which at present Germany is left alone in the field with the Russian Government. These things are worth thinking about by all men and women. They are the only things that matter, not so much to our present generation but to the children of the next. Armageddon unless we try to save them now.

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Berlin's Diamond Bourse Now Housed in Old Cafe, Protected Against Theft

Special Correspondence to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

New York Herald Bureau, Berlin, May 28.

Crown jewels, world renowned diamonds and a stream of precious stones from Russia, Austria and elsewhere in eastern Europe are passing through a little cafe room closed in by brick walls with only one small entrance on the Friedrichstrasse in Berlin. This is the Berlin jewel exchange.

It is one of the most intensely inspected spots in Europe. Jewelers and diamond experts examine stones here through magnifying glasses. They also watch each other, for no control is rigorous in these troubled times. Only members of the diamond association and their foreign guests are permitted inside this costly spot. Then they in turn are watched by police and tax inspectors. At the door visitors must not only show their passports but also have their signatures verified and pay an entrance tax of 100 marks.

Diamond Bourse Active.

Such is the diamond bourse, a combination of cafe and jail, the neck of a bottle which pours the precious stones of bankrupt Europe. From here they scatter over America and Asia, where buyers with gold currency can still be found for pretty baubles.

The Russian revolution followed by the brief German one emptied the railroads of half of Europe. Refugees drifted westward, traveling as far and living as well as their jewels would permit them. Berlin, formerly insignificant as a diamond market, became a center of this trade. During the disorder in 1918 the Russian characters stood near the railroads drawing a few rings, as if not stolen, from their pockets, surreptitiously showing them to people who looked as though they could buy.

Diamond merchants in a more legitimate trade gathered in the cafes. I

have seen a hundred of them drawn up about the little round tables passing stones from hand to hand. There were holdups and swindles, until one fine day the police forbade jewel trade in the cafes. The principal reason for this control was that jewel trade had gone underground without any tax return to the Government treasury. Tax collectors could not hide under every cafe table.

Protection for Trade.

The diamond business was falling into disrepute. Responsible dealers then decided to form a bourse. Having developed the cafe habit, they took a room in the National Cafe and bricked it in, free from all contamination of the outside world.

Here they gather about the same little round table. Stones are no longer passed feverishly from hand to hand but are examined and weighed at leisure. This concentrated control has also checked the traffic in stolen gems. Notice of stolen jewels is more likely to bring results when left with the Friedrichstrasse diamond bourse than when reported to the police. Oftentimes rings are identified.

Recently a jeweler whose shop had been robbed traced an important theft through the bourse. There was no trace, nothing to identify the thief. Everything was as it had been and all locks were intact. One of the rings, however, appeared some time later at the bourse. It was traced back to the nephew of the jeweler. While at dinner he had managed to steal the keys from an overcoat pocket of the jeweler. During the meal he had time to open and rob the safe and to return the keys to his uncle's pocket and himself to return to the table for dinner as though nothing had happened.

The bourse also helps the tax collector. Sales are made in regular fashion and registered at the bourse. Foreigners are obliged to make their payments in the currency of their country. The money is then put at the disposal of the Government bank. This little diamond bourse is the busiest spot in central Europe with one of the largest turnover trade gathered in the cafes. I

Rich Americans Indexed By British Gambling Touts

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD.
Copyright, 1922, by THE NEW YORK HERALD.
New York Herald Bureau, London, June 3.

Crooked gambling has assumed such proportions in London that visitors, particularly Americans, are being indexed by agents of the many gaming houses during their passage to England, according to the *Evening News*. This newspaper is conducting a vigorous campaign for suppression of the evil and its own investigators are visiting the houses and getting first hand information.

The paper warns visitors to be aware of artful devices to entice them to places where they will be fleeced. It states that gaming houses, card sharps and confidence tricksters are operating in the most unexpected avenues of society, principally in order to trap the tourists who, they figure, must have money or they would not be traveling.

Many Complaints.

The police admit that many complaints have been filed. The *News* says: "On every large Atlantic liner from America is a man collecting information about the passengers. He passes it to gaming house principals and others who live on their wits. By watching and associating with the passengers in the first class saloons they find those who play cards, and ascertain whether they play for high or small stakes, whether they play cautiously or recklessly, how much money they are usually prepared to lose, where they are going in London, how long to stay, and whether bound on business or pleasure."

The "likely ones are noted as soon as they get to their hotels, and plans are made to get in touch with them through the smartly dressed touts who frequent the West End. Many of these, all of whom are paid high commissions, are well known to the police; others include people of good family, even people of title, whose lack of

means leads them to turn to shady methods of raising money. "The most popular lure to get Americans is suggesting a place where one can get a drink all night, and to those who want to see the night life, that lure is almost irresistible. Australians are the favorite victims, because they usually are good card players and fond of gambling."

Women as Deceys.
"Women of peculiar charm and fascination are also engaged in the task of deceiving men to visit the gaming dens. There are a certain number of fashionable, titled men and women moving in society who introduce visitors—usually the rich war profiteers who are afflicted with social ambitions. It is no exaggeration to say that there are hundreds of social climbers who are quite willing and often delighted to be fleeced in the company of a titled person."

The places where games are staged are of two types. The first, a fixed place, which may be called a club, a private house or a flat. The second is the movable type. With the latter, a couple of persons hire two or three rooms in a mansion in Mayfair—there are many for rent—for a few days only, and then move on.

Frequently suites in the West End hotels are used. The West End is the most favored locality, because it disarms visitors. The cleverest sharpers—those most to be feared—play the society dodge, and often introduce accomplices, using the names of well known social lights, thereby putting the visitor off his guard, and also on his best behavior.

In this section of the park there has recently been built one of the

largest bathhouses in the country, capable of accommodating 2,000 persons.

The stone for the bathhouse at Hazzard's Beach was quarried from the base of the cliffs, the posts were taken from Harriman Park and the lumber from the commission's sawmills. A five hundred foot artificial beach was built here under the direction of the commission. This is the nearest of the larger recreation centers to New York city, being easily reached by the 158th street ferry.

The Englewood Basin, one of the largest belonging to the park, is just north of the Dyckman street ferry slip on the west side of the river. There are roomy pavilions at the ends of the basin. A short distance north is Bloomer's Beach and still further along the shore is Undercliff Beach. The canoe beach stretches above this point.

Palisades Interstate Parks, Skirting Hudson for Miles, to Reach As Far North As Albany, Costing Millions

In a score of years the States of New York and New Jersey have acquired a 35,000 acre public playground that stretches along the Hudson River, with intermittent breaks, from Fort Lee to Storm King, above West Point. In one section alone, and during one summer, a million and a half pleasure seekers availed themselves of the advantages placed at their disposal by the Commissioners of the Palisades Interstate Parks, who have charge of this chain of recreation centers. With recent acquisitions they expect that this figure will be enormously increased when the total for the summer of 1922 is in.

Connecting some of these units of one of the greatest park systems in the world there is a fine scenic highway, and in time this will be extended as far as Albany. The chain of parks along the west bank of the Hudson and following both the New Jersey and New York shores affords a wide variety of outdoor sports, and all sport centers are readily accessible by steamship, railroad and automobile. With the recent gift of Dr. Ernest G. Stillman, son of the late James Stillman, of 600 acres of land bordering each side of Storm King Highway, this farthest north of the five sections into which the interstate playground is divided comes into prominence. The entire park system represents an outlay of some \$15,000,000, contributed by individuals, appropriated by the two adjoining States and donated by some of the Commissioners. In some portions the park is a comparatively narrow strip skirting the river, again it broadens out into a vast domain extending seven miles back to the Ramapo Mountains.

Part Roosevelt Played.
The history of the establishment of this magnificent public pleasure ground is inseparably associated with the name of the late George W. Perkins, who was appointed by the late Theodore Roosevelt, then Governor of New York, as president of the Commissioners of the Palisades Interstate Park. At that time the Palisades were being slowly but effectively demolished by trap rock quarries. Mr. Roosevelt and other far seeing men interested in the preservation of the river's natural beauties were alarmed at the destructive process.

Gov. Roosevelt called Mr. Perkins on the telephone to acquaint him with the fact that he had been appointed president of the commission. Mr. Perkins replied that he was very busy, but would think the matter over, whereupon the Governor in characteristic manner said he had not called Mr. Perkins up to ask whether he would accept the appointment, but to tell him that he was the president of that interstate body. From that time until his death the Hudson park was one of Mr. Perkins's most cherished dreams. It was a dream that was almost realized before he died in 1920.

The great park system is divided into two large units, the Palisades Park and Bear Mountain Park. There are four other sections, Hook Mountain, Blauevelt, Henry Hudson Drive and Storm King Highway. The largest is the Bear Mountain unit, the gift of Mrs. E. H. Harriman, representing 10,000 acres of land and gifts amounting to \$1,000,000. The Bear Mountain and Harriman tract lie in New York State, while the Palisades Park unit is entirely within New Jersey's boundaries.

Below the towering cliffs of the Palisades, the Park Commission created beaches and recreation centers. The river banks are bordered by artificial bungalows, filled with ballast and laying on top of them the sweepings of New York city's streets. This waste material was obtained without cost, and when the filled in portions were topped by soil and grass they made a delightful riverside park. The Palisades Interstate Park starts at a point approximately opposite 120th street on the New Jersey side of the Hudson and continues north for about twelve miles, or opposite Hastings, N. Y. Here there is an interruption and the Interstate Park starts again at Bear Mountain, forty-five miles from New York on the west shore of the river, and continues seventeen miles west to Tuxedo, N. Y. Hook Mountain, a later acquisition, is just above Nyack, on the west bank and Storm King Highway, the rights of which were purchased from Orange county two years ago, marks at present the farthest point north in the Fort Lee to Albany automobile route, which promises to be the finest scenic drive in the East.

40 Square Miles of Park.

The park represents more than forty square miles of park domain, and within its boundaries are nearly a score of mountains rising from 1,200 to 1,400 feet, with as many more rising about 1,000 feet. Innumerable lakes dot the Harriman unit and afford perfect camping sites. There are beautiful trails that lead up and down rocky slopes, beaches, rustic bathhouses and lockers operated at cost, boat basins for small pleasure craft, camps, lunch stands, automobile roads that take one through magnificent country, canoes and boats, baseball, tennis, fishing and a closer acquaintance with wild flowers, birds and animals.

It is with the Palisades section of the park system that the public is, perhaps, best acquainted. This can be reached by the Fort Lee ferry and a short walk to the beginning of the restored beauty spot along the shore, or it can be reached by the Dyckman street ferry, which lands the pleasure seeker at the foot of the Englewood Drive, two miles north of Fort Lee. Half a mile south of Alpine the drive turns back to the shore, and a short walk to the beginning of the slope to connect with the Boulevard on top of the Palisades near Alpine, and the other leading down to the Alpine landing, which is near the ferry slip of the Yonkers connecting link with the Interstate Park.

In this section of the park there has recently been built one of the largest bathhouses in the country, capable of accommodating 2,000 persons. The stone for the bathhouse at Hazzard's Beach was quarried from the base of the cliffs, the posts were taken from Harriman Park and the lumber from the commission's sawmills. A five hundred foot artificial beach was built here under the direction of the commission. This is the nearest of the larger recreation centers to New York city, being easily reached by the 158th street ferry.

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Next in point of recreation interest is Huyler's Beach and beyond is the Alpine Basin with Alpine Beach to the north and both close to the Yonkers ferry slip. Continuing northward from camp sites, the shore here is Forestview playground and adjoining basin. All of these points of interest are in New Jersey.

A Break at the Nyacks.

Then the park bends inland to Sparkill and Orangeburg, from which points one reaches Blauevelt, the largest of the large reservations. The three Nyacks, South Nyack, Nyack and Upper Nyack, make a break in the continuing system at this point, after which one reaches Hook Mountain. The Commissioners now own the entire face of this landmark, which extends a distance of about five miles along the Hudson River between Nyack and Haverstraw.

At present the automobile road diverges at Nyack, going inland, and it is the hope of the Commissioners some day to have funds at their disposal with which to purchase lands and continue uninterrupted the Hudson river drive along the shore here. It took six years to complete the purchase of the land and quarries of Hook Mountain. The purchase price of the last quarries taken over by the Commissioners was about \$2,000,000. This portion of the park is half way between New York city and Bear Mountain Park. Hook Mountain overlooks Redland, Conger and Swartwout lakes.

From this point the property extends along the river to Snedeker's Landing. Here the park system is interrupted by the Haverstraw, Stony Point, which is a separate park, and Tomkins Cove. Then comes the largest unit of the park system, which is Bear Mountain Park, the gift of Mrs. Harriman. Since she presented the \$1,000,000 fund and 10,000 acres of forest land they have acquired some 20,000 additional acres, which have helped to round out Harriman Park, or Bear Mountain Park, as it is more generally called. Some of this acreage was detached land which has been connected with the park system by the construction of a dock projecting into the river and affording facilities at all tides for the accommodation of large river steamboats. Next came the construction of the park playground, a level field seventeen acres in extent, now sodded and laid out in baseball diamond, football court, a running track, football field, a 220 yard straightaway cinder path, a broad jump takeoff and landing pit and an open space for novelty races.

The north and south entrances to the park were then built and the inn was erected. This provides three types of restaurant service. The most expensive is at the foot of the river, where one receives additional service for the additional price. The next is slightly cheaper and offers practically the same food, but with less service, and the third is a cafe. Those who bring their own lunch baskets are provided with all the essentials for enjoying a meal comfortably in the open air in an adjacent grove.

Hot Meals Sent to Campers.

Major J. A. Welsh, an ingenious engineer, added new lakes to the mountain and forest reserve. One is on the north side of Bear Mountain Inn. Free boating is provided. At Hessian Lake water enthusiasts may take a rowboat for half an hour, paying deposit of 25 cents. If the boat is returned within the half hour the money is refunded. If it is kept out longer the deposit is forfeited as a fine. The fines go toward the cost of operating the service.

There is dancing free of charge in the open pavilion on the lake shore and there are sightseeing buses, maintained by the commission, which make daily scenic mountain trips into the interior of the park, which stretches seventeen miles westward toward the Ramapo Mountains. These trips are from ten to thirty miles and the cost ranges from 50 cents to \$2.50. Mr. Perkins considered Bear Mountain Park the greatest camp park in the world. The road up which is apparently being solved by the commission. Hot meals are delivered to any camp in the park. The food, which is cooked at the inn, is placed in heat retaining receptacles and delivered to the various and sometimes well scattered camps at a reasonable price by the week. In one summer more than 150,000 hot meals were distributed by the park's automobile service.

Because the majority of the campers are undernourished girls and boys from the cities, the commission has tried to simplify camping, to provide more food and better food for the money than could otherwise be obtained, to offer uniformity of cooking and scientific balancing, to avoid waste and to give more time to camp directors for their constructive educational work in the camps.

The commission employs a physician to visit the cooperating camps daily. The camps pay an average of \$1 a month for each child receiving this medical attention. In this largest of the parks in the system are more than fifty "standard" camps constructed and operated by the commission. Most of them include a mess hall and sleeping cabins. Primarily they were established to aid social welfare organizations to bring their charges to the health giving outdoors under most favorable conditions. Each standard camp will house about seventy-five persons.

Camp Goods at Cost.

The commission is prepared to supply to campers without profit sleeping cots, blankets, enameled tableware, groceries, milk, bread, vegetables, cooked meals and transportation to and from camp sites. They also offer natural history exhibits, which may be loaned to camps without charge; concerts, talks on nature, wild life study, field excursions and moving pictures. Among the established camps are Doodletown Valley camp site near Dunderberg, looking across the Hudson River toward Anthony's Nose; another on Lake Stahns, one on the Kanawake Lakes and numerous others between the river and the western boundary near Tuxedo. The camp development has been under the direction of Edward F. Brown.

Thousands and thousands of poor children seek an outing in these camps, sometimes staying two weeks. The Boy Scouts have a camp and various welfare organizations see that their little friends are given a chance to breathe the mountain air and eat the well planned meals. Soldiers have camped there, soldiers maimed in the late war, and hosts of others come because of the great comfort and attractions. All the construction work in the park is carried on by the commission's own force. Commercial interests are excluded. The commission's workmen build the boats, the benches and the tables. The ice on the lakes is harvested for summer and ice water is provided for campers and other pleasure seekers.

Three years ago the commission purchased two steamboats, remodeled them and operated them. The purchase money and the money for alterations were advanced by Mr. Perkins as a loan. They were paid for later out of the funds contributed by the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial. Since then almost every line of steamboats plying the Hudson has arranged to stop at Bear Mountain to take day excursionists, whose number runs into the hundreds of thousands.

A lake in Queensboro Valley has recently been set aside for general camping. Lake Tiorati is another general camping spot. The commission has established a bird and game refuge. \$13,119,418 Contributed.
In 1900 New York State appropriated \$19,000 to obtain possession of the beginning of the park system. The year appropriated \$5,000. The late J. P. Morgan gave \$122,500, provided New York State would appropriate \$400,000, which the State did, and that New Jersey would appropriate a proportionate amount; New Jersey gave \$50,000. Mr. and Mrs. H. McK. Twombly gave 60 acres of land and 3,000 feet of riparian rights in the Borough of Alpine. Mrs. Harriman gave \$1,000,000 and 10,000 acres of land. For private contributions the commission derived the sum of \$1,500,000. New York State authorized a bond issue of \$2,500,000 and New Jersey authorized a proportionate issue. From other sources, principally private contributions, the commission received approximately \$2,000,000. The total funds appropriated and contributed to December, 1919, according to the commission's report, amount to \$13,119,418. The commission paid in 1920 the sum of \$43,137 to Orange county in final settlement of its share of one-half of the cost of acquiring the right of way for the State highway at Storm King Mountain. The completion of this highway will shorten the route from Newburgh to Bear Mountain by twelve miles.

The Commissioners are: Franklin W. Hopkins, Alpine, N. J.; J. Du Pratt White, Nyack; Edward L. Partridge, New York; William H. Porter, New York; W. Averill Harriman, New York; Richard W. Lindabury, Newark; Frederick C. Sutor, Basking Ridge, N. J.; Charles W. Baker, Montclair, and John J. Voorhees, Jersey City.

The officers are: Mr. Hopkins, vice-president and acting president; Mr. White, secretary; Mr. Partridge, treasurer; Elbert W. King, assistant secretary and assistant treasurer, and William A. Welch, general manager and chief engineer.

Cabarets and Champagne Lure For Tourists' Dollars in Berlin

Special Correspondence to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

New York Herald Bureau, Berlin, May 28.

The casual visitor to Berlin leaves with a confused impression of cabarets—big cabarets more like variety shows and little cabarets in vivid colors, handboxes where people are so closely packed together that they can register no other impression than of standing on one another's toes. The tourist who rides along Berlin's Broadway, the Kurfurstendamm, across Berlin, and then along Unter den Linden and the Friedrichstrasse sees lines of new and brightly painted facades. Those which are not banks are cabarets.

Cabarets in Berlin are nearly as old an institution as in Paris, but they are essentially different. The French cabaret, despite much obvious clapping to attract the indifferent crowd, is still the sparkling, cynical chronicle of political and social events. Whoever the public figure of the moment may be, whether a Millerand, a Mme. Sorel or a Landru, he or she is paraded before friendly Parisian cynics who laugh as heartily over their own follies as they do over those of others.

Artists Too Earnest to Laugh.

The German cabaret has a different purpose. The essentially artistic cabaret on the Munich *Simplicissimus* model does not reflect current events. The artists are in too deep earnest to laugh over serious things. Theirs is the stage of the romantic love affair or of the tragic murder. They give the morbidly earnest Wedekind murder or the Strindberg flight into subconscious spheres with uncomfortable realism. High tension is broken by the German sentimental ballad. This for simplicity, tears and muck has the old English love song crowded off the map. The song is that of the poor little Friedrichstrasse girl, deserted by nearly everybody, who has now little more left than a husky voice, to sing about her loneliness.

This traditional type of German cabaret is now considerably modified by the dollar ideal. The newer German cabarets have become systematized money getting machines. Every move from the doorman to the coat check clerk leads to the pocketbook. These establishments offer their guests a splendid opportunity to spend much money ostentatiously. Champagne is king. The plush chairs are deep and comfortable. The cabaret program does not interfere with a business conversation. Guests talk dollar and exchange at their tables, while the singers on the stage give back the echo in little skits about dodging the tax collector and making a pile from butter and chocolate.

Million Foreigners in Berlin.

The influence which has radically modified the Berlin cabaret came with the foreign invasion. There are over a million foreigners in Berlin—a fourth of the population. The Russians, for example, have over a hundred cafes, cabarets and restaurants here. Every Viennese artist seeks a stage in Berlin, the town where the mark is higher than the crown. The Scandinavian and Eastern peoples all have their particular amusement places. There is now, for example, a Swedish ballet. Recently the first English play was given for Americans at the Deutsches Theater, one of the Reinhardt buildings. Jazz and near-jazz is a pretension of nearly every cabaret.

Plots in the original *Simplicissimus* cabaret were usually farcical and to the point. The following are typical ones. A man finds his wife in the arms of a friend. The jealous husband then shoots them both and finishes off the incident by shooting himself. But thinking of an errand he had failed to do, he comes back to life and discovers that he had made a mistake and that he really was not the unhappy woman's husband but some one else's. She also revives in order to reproach him for his carelessness. The plot then thickens until the only way out for all the characters is to commit hara-kiri, or, as in "Dr. Calligari," to transport their entire tragedy within the walls of an insane asylum.

This becomes realism in another typical cabaret plot. A Judge commits a murder, but another is accused and the trial comes up before him. He is about to fix the death penalty for his own crime on an innocent man. At this moment the pale ghost of the murdered man—a friend of the accused who volunteered to play this part—slides across the stage. The Judge then slowly suffocates to death from fright, his dying frenzy lasting full five minutes on the stage. This German cabaret critic all realism. Without the effort to explain away the ghost they would have called it fantasy.

German Study Effects.

French cabarets by contrast put on melodrama, but take no particular pains with stage effects. As it is mostly farce, any old thing will do. But the Germans in the course of one short skit manage to turn on half a dozen different colored lights and to change costumes once or twice. The German artists take much pains with effects in order to give the illusion of the stage. Then comes the sentimental German ballad. In France this might be a sweet ditty but with a tragic turn or a raucous little song with a sentimental turn. The poor little shepherd is not regarded as dramatic enough in Germany to be popular with the German cabaret public. But the lady of easy virtue who ceases up and down still has her heart in the right place is well received. The popular barrack room song in Germany of old Kaiser days disappeared with the army. The rollicking student drinking songs which made Budweiser and Heidelberg famous also have passed away. Too many of the students who once participated in rollicking punch parties are themselves waiting on tables to-day to make a living for their old carousing songs to ring true.

Only recently the patriotic song appeared again. German people do not want to hear about the war and do not respond to suggestions that they should sacrifice their skins again for any cause. But they are ready to shed a tear for the lost provinces. Willy Prager, a popular couplet singer, sang a list of lost frontier provinces which sounded like an extract from the Treaty of Versailles and which closed, "We poor Germans have been bed white." Before me sat two ponderous Germans, comfortably round. Their eyes filled with tears at the thought of their having been—poetically speaking—bed white. A song about the old black-white-red sea flag now registers popular enthusiasm. President Ebert and the new black-gold-red flag will probably remain, but neither provokes a cheer.

Public Is Sober.

The German cabaret public wants to be spellbound, and usually is. The American who wanders in for the first time, unless impressed by very good acting, will wonder at the solemnness of both actors and public and whether the players are making fun of the audience or the public of the players. German cabaret audiences are very appreciative. Any slapstick comedian gets a hand on the oldest of jokes if the music works up to a crescendo. There is not the sparkling wit of the French cabaret nor the speed of the Broadway one. No matter if the tempo is slow, the German enjoys himself, because he does not go to a cabaret to philosophize and think but to eat and drink. Just sitting is still classed among the traditional amusements in Germany.

Then there is the dollar getting cabaret. These came into existence even before "dollar" became the commonest word in the German vocabulary. During the war contractors for grain and army saddles had much loose money they simply had to throw somewhere. The dollar cabaret is so organized that much money can be dropped so easily into the puddle that it hardly makes a splash.

Nelson's is one of the most popular of these dollar cabarets, because it is one of the most costly. A gold braided porter ushers gold pocketed guests into a gold colored lobby. Cabarets of this class have much in common. Interior decorating is either sketchy futurist, or of heavy gilded stucco. Huge columns support nothing in particular. There are deep chairs, massive tables and shaded lamps. The general

decorating, I suppose, would be called pseudo morocco-rocco.

A tradition in Berlin night life is that every one should drink champagne. To order vulgar beer or smug coffee simply isn't done. Champagne, or bad wine at champagne prices, is compulsory. "Weinzwang," the Germans call it, and swank it is. The matinee idol who warbles to a distant love always does so over a glass of champagne. On the stage, the pretty girl on the downward path always has the shiny pal with a wide brimmed glass of bubbly beverage beside her. The desperate man about to commit suicide finds parting from this world harder and more tragic over a champagne glass. The champagne bottle is as much a part of a German stage set as a dress suit is to a waiter.

Dollar a Sign of the Time.

The dollar sign cabaret is a sign of the times—a time when the mark is like an outgoing tide on which desperate swimmers founder about and clutch at the dollar post—the only well planted object they see in the flux about them. Speculators gather at the cabarets and speculation is the subject of conversation on and off the stage. Because America is the land of dollars, it comes most into the dollar cabaret program. Near jazz, cowboy shouts, the American square shouldered hero, much talk about dollars, touring cars and movies, all are supposed to lighten the American atmosphere.

Nelson's a Typical Joint.

The program at Nelson's was typical of dollar cabarets. The scene of one skit was in a Japanese-Kurfurstendamm geisha joint. Nelson, stout and prosperous, appears in every skit. He believes in advertising and has discovered that if he tells people emphatically how great his show is often enough they finally believe him. Nelson wanders into this geisha joint and makes love to a geisha girl. His wife tracks him and accepts the advances of a pseudo-Japanese boy to turn the tables on hubby. She tells the little Japanese, however, that she will only let him make love to her when he grows up. They sing a duet. Then wife impersonates a geisha and accepts the advances of her husband. She will never let hubby out of her sight again—curtain.

Theft was, of course, an Oriental scene, a harem with a tummy-tum song by Pasha Rosenberg of Alexanderplatz